

Claim 57 (new). A preform according to claim 56, wherein said shoulder commences at said extremity.

Claim 58 (new). A preform according to claim 52 and produced by injection moulding.

Claim 59 (new). A preform according to claim 52, wherein said open end is formed with an easy pouring feature consisting of a thin, radially outwardly thinning, curled-over, annular lip.

Claim 60 (new). A preform according to claim 52 and formed externally with a snap ring which, with an external annular shoulder, delimits an external, annular recess co-axial with the preform and serving as a main securing point for an overcap.

Claim 61 (new). A preform according to claim 52 and having at the inside thereof and immediately beyond said extremity a frusto-conical surface which tapers slightly axially inwardly of the preform and serves as a guide for said foil during application of said foil and as part of a frustum seal.

Claim 62 (new). A container comprising:-

a hollow body having a mouth end, an axially outermost extremity of said mouth end, and a shoulder providing a plastics surface inside said body at said mouth end and having a radially innermost diameter less than the internal diameter of said outermost extremity, and

a foil closing said body at said shoulder and sealingly attached to said plastics surface.

Claim 63 (new). A container according to claim 62, wherein said shoulder is of planar form and extends in a radial plane.

Claim 64 (new). A container according to claim 62, wherein said shoulder is of rounded form.

Claim 65 (new). A container according to claim 62, wherein said shoulder is of frusto-conical form and co-axial with said open end.

Claim 66 (new). A container according to claim 65, wherein said shoulder is inwardly converging.

Claim 67 (new). A container according to claim 66, wherein said shoulder commences at said extremity.

Claim 68 (new). A container according to claim 62, wherein said mouth end is formed with an easy pouring feature consisting of a thin, radially outwardly thinning, curled-over, annular lip.

Claim 69 (new). A container according to claim 62, and further comprising a removable closure covering said mouth end.

Claim 70 (new). A container according to claim 69, wherein said foil comprises a disc closing said mouth end and a pull tab extending from the periphery of said disc, said closure being applied over said disc so as to leave a space therebetween, said tab extending in only said space.

Claim 71 (new). A container according to claim 70, wherein said tab extends in a gradual curve from said periphery and then at a spacing from said disc.

Claim 72 (new). A container according to claim 71, wherein said curve has an internal radius of at least one-half of a millimetre.

Claim 73 (new). A container according to claim 72, wherein said internal radius is roughly one millimetre.

Claim 74 (new). A container according to claim 71, wherein said spacing is at least one millimetre.

Claim 75 (new). A container according to claim 71, wherein said curve and said spacing are such that an aqueous liquid in the space defined by the tab and the disc does not persist therein under capillary action.

Claim 76 (new). A container according to claim 71, wherein said curve and said spacing are such that a liquid sterilant in the space defined by the tab and the disc does not persist therein under capillary action.

Claim 77 (new). A container according to claim 70, wherein said hollow body is formed externally with a snap ring which, with an external annular shoulder of said hollow body, delimits an external, annular recess co-axial with said hollow body and serving as a main securing point for said closure.

Claim 78 (new). A container according to claim 70 and having at the inside of said hollow body and immediately beyond said extremity a frusto-conical surface which tapers slightly axially inwardly of said hollow body and serves as a guide for said foil during application of said foil and as part of a frustum seal, of which the other part is provided by said closure.

Claim 79 (new). A container according to claim 62, wherein said foil is a laminate comprised of metal sandwiched between two differing plastics materials of which the axially outer has a significantly higher melting point than the axially inner.

Claim 80 (new). A method comprising:-  
forming a hollow body,  
filling said hollow body with a product, and  
closing said body with a foil, including sealingly attaching said foil to a plastics surface provided by a shoulder which is located inside said body at a mouth end of said body and which has a radially innermost diameter less than the internal diameter of the axially outermost extremity of said mouth end.

Claim 81 (new). A method according to claim 80, and further comprising applying a closure to said body to cover said foil.

Claim 82 (new). A method according to claim 81, wherein said closure is produced by injection moulding.

Claim 83 (new). A method according to claim 80, wherein said hollow body is formed by blow-moulding from a plastics preform.

Claim 84 (new). A method according to claim 83, wherein said preform is produced by injection moulding.

Claim 85 (new). A method according to claim 80, wherein said hollow body is formed by blow-moulding of a plastics parison.

Claim 86 (new). A method according to claim 80 and further comprising punch-forming a pull tab from a laminate, folding said pull tab back over a disc-form main body of said laminate so that said tab extends in a gradual curve from said main body, punching-out said main body with said tab and displacing said tab away from said main body so as to leave a space therebetween and to form said foil consisting of said main body and said tab, applying a liquid sterilant to said space, and drying the liquid sterilant from said space.

Claim 87 (new). A method according to claim 86, wherein said liquid sterilant is aqueous.

Claim 88 (new). A method according to claim 86, wherein said gradual curve has an internal radius of at least one-half of a millimetre.

Claim 89 (new). A method according to claim 88, wherein said internal radius is at least one millimetre.

Claim 90 (new). A method according to claim 86, wherein said space is of a dimension between said tab and said disc of roughly one millimetre.

Claim 91 (new). A method of producing a sealed container, comprising providing a hollow preform having an open end, moulding said preform to form a hollow body having said open end, sealingly attaching a foil to said open end of said hollow body so as to close said body at said open end, and applying over the foil a removable closure so that an annular portion of said closure co-operates with an annular portion of said hollow body to provide a frustum seal therebetween.

Claim 92 (new). A method according to claim 91, wherein both the closure and the preform are produced by injection moulding.

Claim 93 (new). A container comprising a hollow body moulded from a preform, a foil sealingly attached to a mouth end of said body so as to close said body at said mouth end, and a removable closure applied over the foil, an annular portion of said closure co-operating with an annular portion of said body so as to provide a frustum seal therebetween.

Claim 94 (new). A container according to claim 93, wherein said closure is in the form of a snap-on closure.

Claim 95 (new). A method comprising punch-forming a pull tab from a laminate, folding said pull tab back over a disc-form main body of said laminate so that said tab extends in a gradual curve from said main body, punching-out said main body with said tab and displacing said tab away from said main body so as to leave a space therebetween, applying a liquid sterilant to said space, and drying the liquid sterilant from said space.

Claim 96 (new). A method according to claim 95, wherein said liquid sterilant is aqueous.

Claim 97 (new). A method according to claim 95, wherein said curve is given an internal radius of at least one-half of a millimetre.

Claim 98 (new). A method according to claim 97, wherein said internal radius is about one millimetre.

Claim 99 (new). A method according to claim 95, wherein said space is given a dimension between said tab and said main body of roughly one millimetre.

Claim 100 (new). A foil comprising a disc for closing a mouth, and a pull tab extending from the periphery of said disc back over said disc so that said tab extends in a gradual curve from said periphery and then at a spacing from said disc, said curve and said spacing being such that an aqueous liquid in the space defined by the tab and the disc does not persist therein under capillary action.

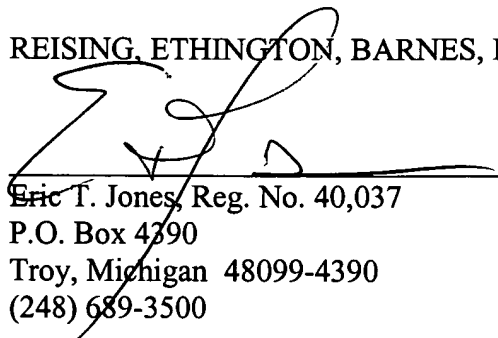
Claim 101 (new). A foil comprising a disc for closing a mouth, and a pull tab extending from the periphery of said disc back over said disc so that said tab extends in a gradual curve from said periphery and then at a spacing from said disc, said curve and said spacing being such that a liquid sterilant in the space defined by the tab and the disc does not persist therein under capillary action.

Claim 102 (new). A foil comprising a disc for closing a mouth, and a pull tab extending from the periphery of said disc back over said disc so that said tab extends in a gradual curve from said periphery and then at a spacing from said disc, said curve having an internal radius of at least one-half of a millimetre and said spacing being at least one millimetre.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 50-0852. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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